

# How Artists Deaths Influence Drug Usage

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## Abstract

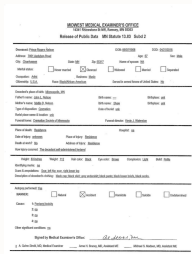
Often referred to as "The King of Pop," Michael Jackson, one of the most talented and influential artists of his time, suffered a tragic end due to his overdose on prescribed medication. Prince suffered a similar death much like Michael Jackson's by overdosing on fentanyl, an opioid which often causes weakness, dizziness and choking. Another artist, the rapper Juice WRLD died from an accidental overdose of Oxycodone. These African American artists from the 2000s have influenced the usage of drugs among their audiences. As displayed on their own deaths, these artists have normalized the consumption and usage of drugs through their careers. By using CDC records of the drugs that were misused by these three artists, it is easy to connect the influence that is held on their audience. Research also proves that during this time there was a significant increase in deaths caused by overdoses. While idolizing these artists, one can often be encouraged to try drugs that fit into the artist lifestyle.

## Methodology

When reading articles about how impactful there the life's of these artist were. Many described them as a great loss to the music industry. Always talking about what fatal drugs that took these artists to soon due to overdosing or wrong use of these drugs. By looking CDC data and the autopsies of the artists I could determine the influence and artist can have even when in death. By looking if after a year death was there and increase of overdosing deaths involving the drugs these artists took.



CDC Data records



Prince's Autopsy

## Research Question

How major African- American artists overdosing can cause an increase in drug deaths?

## Hypothesis

I hypothesize that there will be an increase in drug deaths due to major African-American artists overdosing deaths.

## Artists



- Michael Jackson "The king of rock" born on August 29, 1958 and died on June 25, 2009
- Started his music career with his siblings in the group Jackson 5 as a vocalist
- He later became a solo artist in 1972 with Motown
- Michael Jackson later died due to abusing prescription drugs (propofol)
- Propofol can be a relaxant and an anesthetic that cause someone to fall asleep. Normally used for surgery.



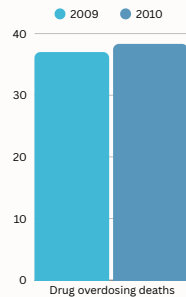
- Prince Roger's Nelson born on June 7, 1958, and died on April 21 2016
- Started his career in 1978 being signed to Warner Bros. Records.
- Prince later died due to an accidental overdose of fentanyl a powerful opioid.
- Fentanyl is a pain relief and anaesthetic that causes a numbness to the pain



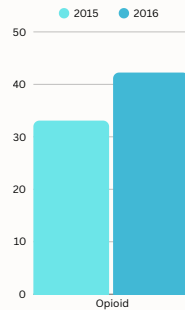
- Jarad Anthony Higgins also known as Juice WRLD was born December 1998 and died December 2019
- An American rapper that gained his fame in SoundCloud and later signed with Interscope Record
- Juice WRLD later died due to abusing oxycodone a opioid .
- Oxycodone is a pain management drug a that is highly addicted



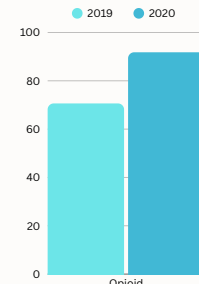
## Results



When Michael Jackson died from overdosing there was increase of 4%



When Prince died from overdosing there was an increase of 27.7%.



When Juice WRLD died there was an increase of 30%

## Discussion

When looking at the resulting data there was increase of overdosing deaths after each artist tragic death. The increase from 4%, 27.7 % and 30% after a year of each artist death. Providing evidence to support how artist influence can result in wrong uses of drugs, due to there deaths involving drugs. By looking at the numbers in this experiment it can prevent wrong use of drugs due to curiosity.

## Future Research

I will be continuing my research by looking at more African-American artists that died do to overdosing on drugs. Some artists that could researched in the future are Frankie Lymon, Dinah Washington, and Rob Pilatus.



- Dinah Washington a jazz and R and B singer in the 1950's
- She died at the age of 39 years old due to a accidental overdose on prescription drugs in 1963.

- Frankie Lymon was a lead singer for a 1950's group called The Teenagers.
- He died at the age of 25 from a heroin overdose in 1968



- Rob Pilatus was in a pop music duo that a Grammy award in 1980s.
- He died from a overdose of a mixture of prescription pills and alcohol at the age of 32 in 1998

## References

Scan the QR code for references

